IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Sarah Metcalfe et al.

Application No. : 10/014,789

Date of Filing : December 14, 2001

Title : SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR ENABLING

COLLABORATIVE PROCUREMENT OF PRODUCTS

IN A SUPPLY CHAIN

Confirmation No. : 1625

Examiner : Wu, Rutao

TC/Art Unit : 3628

USPTO Customer No. : 26707

Attorney Docket No.: 125090.00015

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Final Office Action mailed May 16, 2006, Applicants respectfully submit the following preliminary amendment, together with a Request for Continued Examination under 37 C.F.R. 1.114 which is submitted herewith. Applicants request reconsideration and further examination of the Application in view of the amendments and/or comments as set forth below.

Amendments to the Specification: None.

Amendments to the Claims: Begin on page 2.

Amendments to the Drawings: None.

Remarks: Begin on page 11.